

Attorney Docket No.: 960296.95360
Applicant: Ronald T. Raines
Application No.: 09/234,028 Filed: 01/20/1999
Group Art Unit: 1652
Examiner: Richard G. Hutson
Reply to Office Action dated: January 31, 2008
Response dated: April 30, 2008

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) An oxidation-resistant engineered ribonuclease inhibitor (RI) variant selected from the group consisting of

(i) an RI variant differing from reference SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the difference consists of ~~at least one of the residues~~ an alanine residue at ~~positions~~ position 95, 96, 329 ~~and or~~ 330 ~~being an alanine~~; and

(ii) an RI variant differing from reference SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the difference consists of ~~at least one of the residues~~ an alanine residue at ~~positions~~ position 324 ~~and or~~ 325 ~~being an alanine~~,

the variant having a greater resistance to oxidation relative to the reference sequence for the variant and retaining its specificity and binding affinity to ribonuclease.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The ribonuclease inhibitor variant of claim 1, wherein the difference inhibits the formation of a disulfide bond with an adjacent cysteine residue.

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5. (Previously presented) The ribonuclease inhibitor variant of claim 18, wherein the variant is 10 to 15 fold more resistant to oxidative damage than a native ribonuclease inhibitor.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The ribonuclease inhibitor variant of claim 1, wherein the variant exhibits an *in vitro* inhibition of ribonucleolytic activity.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The ribonuclease inhibitor variant of claim 18, having specificity and affinity for binding to angiogenin of the reference SEQ ID NO:3.

10. - 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) An oxidation-resistant ribonuclease inhibitor (RI) variant differing from reference SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the difference consists of ~~at least one of the residues~~ an alanine residue at positions position 95, 96, 329 ~~and or~~ 330 being an alanine.

19. (Previously presented) An RI variant of Claim 18, the residues at positions 329 and 330 being alanine residues.

20. (Currently amended) An oxidation-resistant ribonuclease inhibitor (RI) variant differing from reference SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the difference ~~consisting consists~~ of ~~at least one of the residues~~ an alanine residue at positions position 324 ~~and or~~ 325 being an alanine.

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21. (New) An RI variant of Claim 20, the residues at positions 324 and 325 being alanine residues.

22. (New) An RI variant of Claim 18, the residues at positions 95 and 96 being alanine residues.

23. (New) An RI variant of Claim 18, the residues at positions 95, 96, 329 and 330 being alanine residues.